

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A user interface of a machine tool, the user interface comprising:

a display that is divided into at least a first display region and a second display region, wherein the first display region permanently displays a main menu that provides selection of different main activity modes of a machine tool the user interface, wherein each main activity mode is associated with a main window that is opened in the second display region when a main activity mode is selected in the main menu, wherein at least one of the main windows comprises a permanently displayed submenu that provides selection of different submodes, with each submode being associated with a subwindow that is opened when an associated submode is selected, wherein one or more of the main windows and the subwindows include input fields; and

an input unit for selecting the individual modes and for processing the input fields provided in a window,

wherein the first display region permanently displays which one of the main activity modes of the machine tool is selected, and

wherein, if in an original main activity mode, a particular subwindow was opened and a user switched from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode, then if the user switches back to the original main activity mode, the particular subwindow is opened upon return into the original main activity mode.

2. (Currently Amended) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the selected main activity mode is marked in the main menu.

3. (Previously Presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein at least one of the subwindows comprises a permanently displayed sub-submenu for selecting different sub-submodes of a selected submode and a sub-subwindow associated with each sub-submode such that a sub-subwindow is opened when its associated sub-submode is selected.

4. (Previously presented) The user interface of claim 3, wherein at least one of the main windows, the subwindows, or the sub-subwindows comprises:

a navigation menu for selecting different navigation modes that each graphically represent a region of the machine tool, and

a navigation window associated with each navigation mode such that a navigation window is opened within the at least one main window, subwindow, or sub-subwindow when its associated navigation mode is selected.

5. (Currently Amended) The user interface of claim 3, wherein if, in an original main activity mode, a particular sub-subwindow or navigation window was opened, and a user switched from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode, if the user switches back to the original main activity mode from the other main activity mode, the particular sub-subwindow or navigation window is opened upon return into the original main activity mode.

6. (Previously presented) The user interface of claim 3, wherein at least one of the main windows, the subwindows, or the sub-subwindows comprises at least one activity button for processing input fields provided therein, in which each activity button is associated with an activity button window.

7. (Currently Amended) The user interface of claim 6, wherein when an activity button window is opened, switching-over to a different main window, subwindow, or sub-subwindow of the same main activity mode is blocked.

8. (Currently Amended) The user interface of claim 4, wherein a sequence of the individual submodes, sub-submodes, and navigation modes within one main activity mode is oriented on the workflow of the machine tool.

9. (Previously presented) The user interface of claim 3, characterized in that at least one of the submenus and the sub-submenus is designed as tab menu bar.

10. (Previously presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the display and the input unit are formed by a touch screen.

11. (Previously presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein at least one of the main windows or the subwindows comprises:

a navigation menu for selecting different navigation modes that each graphically represent a region of the machine tool; and

a navigation window associated with each navigation mode such that a navigation window is opened within at least one main window or subwindow when its associated navigation mode is selected.

12. (Previously presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein at least one of the main windows or the subwindows comprises at least one activity button for processing input fields provided therein, in which each activity button is associated with an activity button window.

13. (Previously presented) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the main menu is displayed as a menu bar.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing with a user of a machine tool, the method comprising:

displaying a first display region in a display;

displaying a second display region in the display;

permanently displaying a main activity menu in the first display region, wherein the main activity menu provides a selection of different main activity modes of the user interface a machine tool, wherein each main activity mode is associated with a main window;

opening a main window in the second display region when its associated main activity mode is selected in the main activity menu;

permanently displaying a submenu in at least one of the main activity windows, wherein the submenu provides a selection of different submodes that are each associated with a subwindow;

opening a subwindow when its associated submode is selected;

displaying input fields in one or more of the main windows and the subwindows;

enabling selection of one or more of a main activity mode or a submode through an input unit;

processing the input fields at the input unit;

permanently displaying in the first display region which one of the main activity modes is selected;

opening a particular subwindow in an original main activity mode;

receiving a selection to switch from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode;

receiving a selection to switch from the other main activity mode back to the original main activity mode; and

opening the particular subwindow upon return to the original main activity mode.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising marking the selected main activity mode in the main menu.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[16]] 14, further comprising:

permanently displaying in at least one of the subwindows a sub-submenu that enables selection of different sub-submodes of a selected submode;

associating with each sub-submode a sub-subwindow; and

opening a sub-subwindow when its associated sub-submode is selected.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[16]] 14, further comprising:  
presenting a navigation menu having different navigation modes in at least one of the main windows, the subwindows, or the sub-subwindows, wherein each navigation mode represents a region of the machine tool;  
associating a navigation window with each navigation mode; and  
opening a navigation window within the at least one main window, subwindow, or sub-subwindow when its associated navigation mode is selected.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:  
opening a particular sub-subwindow or navigation window in an original main activity mode; and  
receiving a selection to switch from the original main activity mode to another main activity mode;  
receiving a selection to switch from the other main activity mode back to the original main activity mode; and  
opening the particular sub-subwindow or navigation window upon return to the original main activity mode.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising:  
presenting an activity button in at least one of the main windows, the subwindows, or the sub-subwindows, wherein an activity button supports processing of input fields provided in the at least one main window, subwindow, or sub-subwindow; and  
associating each activity button with an activity button window.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising blocking switching to a different main window, subwindow, or sub-subwindow of a main activity mode when an activity button window is opened.

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21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising designing at least one of the submenus or sub-submenus as a tab menu bar.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the main activity modes include at least one of production, setting, programming, maintenance, start-up, and diagnosis.

23. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the main activity modes include at least one of production, setting, programming, maintenance, start-up, and diagnosis.